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FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH. SURVEY OF
HEALTH CONDITIONS IN ALACHUA COUNTY.

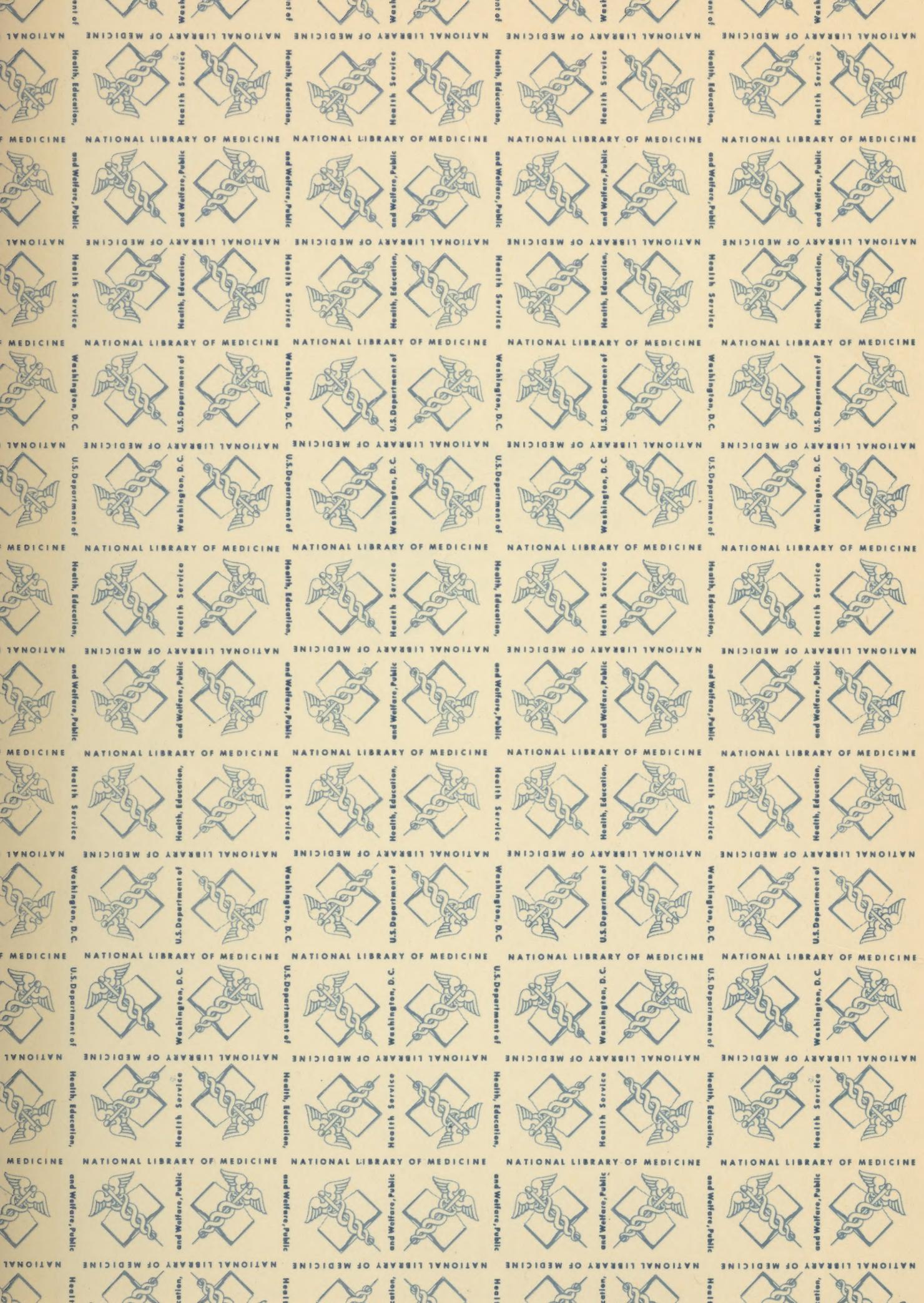
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SURVEY OF HEALTH CONDITIONS

IN

ALACHUA COUNTY

FRANK V. CHAPPELL, M.D., DIRECTOR
MOBILE HEALTH UNIT
FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

11 MAY 1937

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Alachua county is situated in about the geographical center of the state. It is bound on the north by the Santa Fe River which separates it from Columbia County and by Union and Bradford counties; on the east is Putnam County; while on the south it is partly separated from Marion County by Orange Lake. Levy County is to the southwest and Gilchrist County bounds it on the west. The county has a total area of 906 square miles and the land is mostly flat, with the exception of an area in the northwest which is quite rolling. The county contains many lakes, particularly in the southeast; the larger of these being: Lake Orange, Lake Lockloosa, Lake Newmans, and Lake Micanopy. There are also many swampy areas, the most of them being along creeks and around the lakes. The largest of these is Paynes Prairie which, is about 3 miles south of Gainesville and extends east and southeast, appears to be continuous with Lake Orange and Lake Lockloosa. This prairie stays in a semi-flooded condition practically all of the time, and contains a number of small streams. It is quite hard to find any definite figures or estimate the size of this prairie but it appears to be from one to four or five miles wide and at least ten miles in length. Dr. T. H. D. Griffitts has made the remark that this is one of the most prolific breeding places for mosquitoes of which he has any knowledge.

The county has a white population of 20,046; a colored population of 16,360, or a total population as of 1935 of 36,406.

Gainesville is the seat of the University of Florida. The county seat is Gainesville, with a population, as of 1935, of 12,274. Of this number, 7,104 are white and 5,170 are colored. It is situated practically in the middle of the county and serves as the trading area for a very large territory.

There are 4,820 pupils in the 20 white schools of the county and 3,451 colored pupils in the 49 colored schools.

In 1935 there were 2,998 illiterates in the county, or 8.23 percent.

Alachua county has a total assessed valuation of approximately \$5,000,000.00. The only bonded debt for which the entire county is responsible is for the Alachua County Hospital in the amount of \$90,000.00. The general tax rate averages for the county as a whole about 25 mills. This varies slightly from 23 to 29 mills in various districts. Some districts also have a higher millage because of taxes for certain roads and schools which they have built.

This survey made at the request of
the Alachua County Medical Society.

Dr. Thomas A. Snow, President.

The income for the majority of the population is derived from truck farming. The county as a whole has a rich, sandy soil and the usual crops of corn, beans, potatoes and tomatoes grow in abundance. A little citrus and tobacco are also grown. There are 2,264 farms with an area of 239,830 acres. There are 4,639 people engaged in farming and the crops at the last agricultural census were valued at \$2,273,794.00. Within the last few years another industry has sprung up in the raising of tung oil trees. A very large acreage which centers around Gainesville has been planted. Mining, forestry and fishing employ about 200 people, and the naval stores industry is quite important.

The livestock industry is valued at \$958,767.00 and the value of the dairy products per year is \$165,495.00.

There are 47 manufacturing establishments, practically all representing some type of lumber industry. Eleven hundred and eleven people are engaged in manufacturing and the total value of the products manufactured in 1935 was \$4,680,673.00.

The county has good paved roads to practically all parts of it.

There are 8 incorporated cities and towns in the county, which, with the mayors and the population of each, are as follows:

City	Mayor	Population
Gainesville	Hal C. Batey	12,274
High Springs	Dr. P. D. Weeks	1,864
Alachua	George Dukes	1,865
Newberry	L. B. Granchy	766
Waldo	L. B. Alexander	703
Micanopy	J. R. Mountain	725
Hawthorne	D. H. Mathews	600
Archer	Monroe Venable	576

ALACHUA COUNTY

Political Control

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Oscar H. Thomas, Chairman	Gainesville
John P. Ambrose	Waldo
B. T. Martin	High Springs
C. C. Sherouse	Hawthorne
W. J. Whitehurst	Archer

SHERIFF: Mr. J. P. Ramsey Gainesville

COUNTY JUDGE	B. D. Hires Gainesville
COUNTY CLERK	Bill Evans Gainesville
County Superintendent	
Public Instruction	Horace Letrouer Gainesville
COUNTY FARM AGENT	Fred L. Craft Gainesville
STATE SENATOR	R. L. Black Gainesville
REPRESENTATIVES	Mr. Bryant Gainesville

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Mr. C. A. Lee, Jr. Secretary

JUNIOR CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE W. E. Arnow, President
H. B. Sobol, (Attorney) President-elect
term begins 6/1/37

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF
DISTRICT BOARD OF
SOCIAL WELFARE Mrs. Furma DeWitt

AMERICAN LEGION B. J. Otte, Commander Gainesville
Dr. W. E. Whitlock High Springs

NEWSPAPERS: Gainesville Sun (daily) Editor - L. C. Pepper
Alachua County News (weekly) Editor - J. K. Hall
High Springs, Telegram

RADIO STATION WRUF - Gainesville (State owned)

There are 26 white and 2 colored practicing physicians in Alachua county. Their average age is 51 years.

PHYSICIANS:

Name	Address
Dr. T. A. Snow, President	Gainesville
Dr. H. M. Merchant, Secretary	Gainesville
Dr. J. E. Maines	Gainesville
Dr. W. C. Thomas	Gainesville
Dr. G. C. Tillman	Gainesville
Dr. J. L. Summerlin	Gainesville
Dr. E. H. Andrews	Gainesville
Dr. J. M. Dell, Sr.	(Florida Farm Colony)
Dr. J. M. Dell, Jr.	Gainesville
Dr. M. H. Depass	Gainesville
Dr. W. T. Elmore	Gainesville
Dr. Wilburn Lassiter	Bainesville
Dr. DeWitt T. Smith	Gainesville
Dr. R. E. Summitt	Gainesville
Dr. C. F. Ahmann	Gainesville
Dr. Alva T. Cobb, Jr.	(Florida Farm Colony)
Dr. Fred Mathers	(University of Florida Infirmary
Dr. H. I. Preston	Melrose
Dr. I. G. Dailey	Micanopy
Dr. G. M. Floyd	Hawthorne
Dr. B. M. Bishop	Archer
Dr. S. P. Getzen	Newberry
Dr. D. C. Witt	Alachua
Dr. J. A. Goode	Alachua
Dr. W. E. Whitlock	High Springs
Dr. P. D. Weeks	High Springs

COLORED PHYSICIANS:

Dr. R. B. Ayer	Gainesville
Dr. Julius A. Parker	Gainesville

DENTISTS:

Dr. C. G. Mixson, President	Gainesville
Dr. R. L. Bowman, Secretary	Gainesville
Dr. J. D. L. Terch	Gainesville
Dr. Donald Morrison	Gainesville
Dr. G. W. Schwalbe	Gainesville
Dr. J. R. Emerson	Gainesville
Dr. S. A. Hussey, Sr.	Gainesville
Dr. S. A. Hussey, Jr.	Gainesville
Dr. Harrison	High Springs
Dr. F. B. Stephens, M.D., D.D.S.	Waldo
Dr. G. B. Tison	Gainesville

COLORED DENTIST:

Dr. Dubose	Gainesville
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CITY OF GAINESVILLE

MAYOR COMMISSIONER: Hal C. Batey
CITY COMMISSIONERS: Dr. J. M. Dell, Sr.
F. H. Winston
R. B. Livingston
J. M. Butler

CITY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE Clarence A. O'Neill

CITY MANAGER R. T. Hargrave
CITY HEALTH OFFICER: Dr. L. W. Lassiter
Chief of Police W. B. Cahoon

CIVIC CLUBS

Rotary Club Ballard Simmons, President
John Scott, President-Elect

Kiwanis F. G. McIntosh

Lions William Ettelstein, President

Lawyers Club

Womans Club Mrs. W. R. Carroll, President
Mrs. A. C. Brown, President-Elect

Parent Teachers Association P. K. Yonge School, E. A. Clayton, President
East Side School, Dr. Donald Morrison, President

CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS

MAYOR: Dr. P. D. Weeks
COUNCILMEN: Mr. W. J. Priest
Mr. A. E. Summers, Jr.
Mr. B. H. Rimes
Mr. A. V. Benson
Mr. J. A. McArthur

CITY HEALTH OFFICER Dr. W. E. Whitlock

CIVIC CLUBS

Rotary Club	A. V. Benson, President
Womans Club	Mrs. Knight, President
Parent Teachers Association	Mrs. W. H. McNair, President
NEWSPAPER:	High Springs Telegram

NEWSPAPER: : High Springs Telegram

AMERICAN LEGION: Dr. W. E. Whitlock

CITY OF ALACHUA

CITY MANAGER: H. H. Hobbs

COUNCILMEN: Mr. George Dukes, Mayor
Mr. W. H. Enneis
Mr. F. M. Eddy

The county at present has no health setup of any kind except one white and one colored WPA nurse, and their work does not seem to meet the approval of most of the physicians of the county. The city of Gainesville has a part-time health officer, one nurse, one director of sanitation, who is a doctor of veterinary medicine, a food inspector, and two men doing some work in mosquito control. A general clinic is operated three times a week by the health officer with the assistance of the practicing physicians who serve at regular intervals. It is well operated, and they want it to continue. Any type work can be done, either at the clinic or by sending them to the hospital. The city appropriates \$1500.00 for the maintenance of this clinic. There is one general county hospital. This institution has 65 beds with a daily average of about 25 patients. The cost per patient per day is estimated at \$4.00 and the county commissioners each month appropriate \$600.00 for the care of indigent patients. There are no facilities for taking care of communicable diseases, and are only taken in under certain emergencies. The University of Florida has a well equipped infirmary of 45 beds which is approved by the American College of Surgeons. The Florida Farm Colony, a state hospital of 518 beds for the care of feeble-minded and epileptic children is also located at Gainesville.

VITAL STATISTICS

The vital statistics are collected by 11 local registrars who are assisted by 10 deputy registrars located at the most thickly populated parts of the County. The local registrars are paid 25¢ for each registration sent to the Bureau of Vital Statistics. The names and addresses of these registrars are as follows:

LOCAL REGISTRARS:

Registrar	Deputy Registrar	Address
Dr. W. Lassiter	Mrs. T. M. Cheves	Gainesville
Mrs. Kate Ryals	Mrs. Maude Westbrooks	High Springs
Mr. L. N. Pearce	Mrs. L. N. Pearce	Newberry
Mrs. Belle Dailey	I. A. Dailey, M.D.	Micanopy
Dr. F. B. Stephens	Mrs. Addie Stephens	Waldo
Dr. G. M. Floyd	Mrs. Clara Floyd	Hawthorne
M. C. Marper	Leo A. Marper	Archer
F. B. Stewart	H. F. Preston, M.D.	Melrose
W. J. Evans	M. A. Evans	Island Grove
N. L. Mathews	None	Campville

The registrars estimate that their registrations are from 75% to 95% effective; one or two of them claim 100% but this is probably most nearly approached in Gainesville. All of the birth and death certificates of all of the registrars were gone over and tabulated personally by the surveyor and with a few exceptions appeared to be rather completely filled out. Two or three of the registrars admittedly cared very little about doing the work and the resulting negligent attitude reflected itself in the careless manner in which their certificates were filled out and their records kept. The copies which they had on file very often omitted several very important items and the causes of death would not be acceptable to the Bureau of Vital Statistics. If, and when corrected death certificates were issued, there was no indication that these changes had been made in the copies kept on file by the local registrars. This probably accounts at least in part for the discrepancy in the figures for various birth and death rates which follow and which were tabulated directly from the copies on file with the registrars, and the more correct figures obtained from the Bureau of Vital Statistics which follow on page 13.

BIRTHS AND RATE PER 1000

ALACHUA COUNTY

Year	White		Colored		Total	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Crude Birth Rate
1934	312	16.1	297	18.3	609	16.6
1935	356	11.8	367	22.4	723	19.8
1936	339	17.0	326	20.0	665	18.0

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE PER 1000

Year	White		Colored		Total	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Crude Death Rate
1934	292	14.3	340	20.8	632	17.3
1935	241	12.1	301	18.2	542	14.8
1936	254	12.7	234	14.3	488	13.2

BIRTHS - INFANT DEATH RATE

ALACHUA COUNTY

<u>Year</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1934	W	312	18	57.7
	C	297	14	47.1
TOTAL		609	32	52.5
1935	W	356	14	39.5
	C	367	29	78.8
TOTAL		723	43	59.4
1936	W	339	20	59.0
	C	326	14	43.0
TOTAL		665	34	52.7

STILLBIRTHS - RATE PER 1000

ALACHUA COUNTY

<u>Year</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Colored</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1934	14	41	23	77.5	37	60.7
1935	15	42	19	51.8	34	47.0
1936	12	35.4	25	76.7	37	55.6

MATERNAL DEATHS - RATE PER 1000

ALACHUA COUNTY

<u>Year</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Colored</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1934	2	6.6	3	10.9	5	8.9
1935	3	8.8	2	5.7	5	7.2
1936	0	0	3	10.0	3	4.7

BIRTH RECORDS

ALACHUA COUNTY

<u>Year</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Delivered by Physician</u>	<u>Delivered by Midwife</u>	<u>Total</u>
1934	W	284	28	312
	C	24	273	297
Total		308	301	609
Percentage		50.5	49.4	100
1935	W	325	31	356
	C	31	336	367
Total		356	367	723
Percentage		49.2	50.8	100
1936	W	300	39	339
	C	34	292	326
Total		334	331	665
Percentage		50.2	49.8	100%
1937	W	115	15	130
	C	18	117	125
Total		123	132	255
Percentage		48.2	51.8	100

DEATH RECORDS

ALACHUA COUNTY

Cause of death	White		Colored		Total	
	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate
Malaria	8	40.	19	126.	27	74.1
Cancer	12	60.	8	49.	20	54.6
Unknown	10	50.	34	209.	44	120.2
Apoplexy	25	125.	31	190.	56	153.8
Cardiac (all forms)	60	300.	52	316.	112	307.7
Pneumonia, lobar	17	85.	21	129.3	38	104.1
Pneumonia, broncial	19	95.	8	49.	27	74.1
Nephritis	10	50.	20	122.	30	82.2
Accident (all kinds)	18	90.	21	129.3	39	106.5
Puerperal	2	10.	3	18.4	5	13.7
Stillborn	17	85.	25	153.	42	115.

1934	WHITE		COLORED		TOTAL	
	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate
Causes of death						
Influenza	2	10.	0	0	2	5.5
Prematurity	4	20.	4	24.5	8	21.9
Gastro-Intestinal	5	25.	0	0	5	13.7
Tuberculosis (all forms)	8	40.	17	104	25	68.5
Syphilis	0	0	4	24.5	4	10.9
Infant deaths	18	90.	14	85.6	32	88.
Pellagra	2	10.	7	42.8	9	24.7
Uremia	3	15.	5	30.8	8	21.9
Septicemia	4	20.	0	0	4	10.9
Miscellaneous	48	240.	47	237.5	95	260.

1935	WHITE		COLORED		TOTAL	
	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate
Causes of death						
Malaria	6	30.	3	18.4	9	24.7
Cancer	15	75.	7	43.	22	60.4
Unknown	8	40.	20	122.	28	79.5
Apoplexy	28	140.	34	209.	62	170.0
Cardiac (all forms)	41	205.	38	233.	79	217.
Pneumonia, lobar	12	60	15	92.	27	74.1
Pneumonia, bronchial	17	85.	9	55.2	26	71.3
Nephritis	5	25.	22	135.	27	74.1
Accident	18	90.	24	147.	42	115.
Puerperal	3	15.	2	12.2	5	13.7
Stillborn	17	85.	22	135.	39	107.
Influenza	2	10.	3	18.4	5	13.7
Prematurity	6	30.	13	79.7	19	52.
Gastro-Intestinal	2	10.	7	43.	9	24.7
Tuberculosis	4	20.	13	79.7	17	46.7
Syphilis	0	0	3	18.4	3	8.2
Infants	14	70.	29	177.2	43	118.
Pellagra	3	15	3	18.4	6	16.4
Miscellaneous	37	185.	35	215.	72	196.7
Uremia	1	5.	1	6.2	2	5.5
Septicemia	1	5.	1	6.2	2	5.5
Typhoid Fever	1	5.	0	0	1	2.7

Cause of death	WHITE		COLORED		TOTAL	
	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate
Malaria	1	5.	1	6.2	2	5.5
Cancer	13	65.	7	42.8	20	54.6
Unknown	10	50.	21	129.3	31	85.2
Apoplexy	18	90.	30.	185.	48	131.
Cardiac (all forms)	42	210.	34	209.	76	208.4
Pneumonia, lobar	15	75.	20	122.	35	96.
Pneumonia, bronchial	20	100.	6	36.7	26	71.2
Nephritis	6	30.	18	110.	24	65.8
Accidents	27	135	8	49.	35	96.
Puerperal	0	0	3	18.4	3	8.2
Influenza	2	10.	2	12.2	4	10.9
Stillborn	12	60.	29	177.2	41	112.2
Prematurity	8	40.	8	49.	16	43.9
Gastro-Intestinal	8	40.	7	42.8	15	41.2
Tuberculosis	4	20.	5	31.2	9	24.7
Syphilis	1	5.	3	18.4	4	10.9
Infants	20	100.	14	85.6	34	
Pellagra	2	10.	2	12.2	4	10.9
Miscellaneous	34	170.	12	73.5	46	129.
Uremia	4	20.	1	6.2	5	13.7
Septicemia	2	10	1	6.2	3	8.2
Typhoid Fever	0	0	1	6.2	1	2.7
Diphtheria	2	10.	0	0	2	5.5

Cause of death	WHITE		COLORED		TOTAL	
	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate
Malaria	0	0	1	6.2	1	2.7
Cancer	7	35	2	12.4	9	24.7
Unknown	2	10	10	62.	12	33.
Apoplexy	10	50	15	92.	25	68.5
Cardiac (all forms)	14	70	8	49.	22	60.4
Pneumonia, lobar	3	15	24	147.	27	74.1
Pneumonia, bronchial	4	20	1	6.2	5	13.7
Nephritis	1	5	0	0	1	2.7
Accident	7	35	5	31.2	12	32.8
Puerperal	1	5	1	6.2	2	5.5
Stillborn	9	45	12	73.5	21	57.6
Influenza	0	0	1	6.2	1	2.7
Prematurity	2	10	8	49.	10	27.5
Gastro-Intestinal	2	10	0	0	2	5.5
Tuberculosis	3	15	5	31.2	8	21.9
Infants	3	15	5	31.2	8	21.9
Pellagra	0	0	1	6.2	1	2.7
Miscellaneous	5	25	10	62.	15	41.2
Diphtheria	0	0	2	12.4	2	5.5

State Board of Health
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
Jacksonville, Florida

BIRTHS FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, 1934 - 1936.

YEARS	1936	1935	1934
Births	666	688	649

DEATHS FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, 1934 - 1936.

YEARS	1936	1935	1934
DEATHS	495	462	547

INFANT MORTALITY - DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE BY COLOR FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, 1934 - 1936.

	1936	1935	1934				
Total	Total	White	Col.	Total	White	Col.	
Rate		46	13	33	50	17	33
per							
1000		71.5			83.		

DEATHS FROM DISEASES OF PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH AND THE PUERPERAL STATE FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, Florida.

YEARS	1936	1935	1934
DEATHS	8	4	4

STILLBIRTHS FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, 1934 - 1936.

YEARS	1936	1935	1934
STILL-BIRTHS	44	45	47

EPIDEMIOLOGY

There are no records of any kind available in the county which would give any idea as to the prevalence of communicable diseases in the area. No morbidity figures are available and no thorough investigation of communicable disease is made except the little which is possible by the district medical officer of the State Board of Health.

As stated elsewhere, no isolation hospital is available and no systematic immunization program is carried on.

The last work in the county schools appears to have been done by Dr. Tom Morgan while he was district medical officer in this district. As far as can be ascertained, the Gainesville City Health Officer appears to be quite active in the control of communicable disease in that city. He tells me that he has ordinances covering these matters and gets 100% cooperation from the city law enforcement agencies.

TUBERCULOSIS

For a short time at least, one of the FERA nurses was assigned to the work on tuberculosis in the county. There is a record on file of some 125 or more active cases of tuberculosis but apparently nothing has been done about controlling it except to a certain extent in the city of Gainesville.

MATERNAL AND INFANT HYGIENE

There are 42 midwives practicing in the county. Of this number only 28 are licensed and registered. The two WPA nurses in the county apparently spend a good portion of their time in an effort at supervision of the midwives. Classes are held each month for them and frequent visits are made by the nurses in their homes. No infant hygiene clinics are held but the nurses make an effort to visit the home of each new-born giving such help and instructions as they can. The midwives do not notify the nurses when deliveries are made, but at each meeting midwives are required to bring their birth certificate books and the names of the infants are taken from these. Midwives delivered 1131 infants from January 1, 1934 to March 31, 1937, or approximately 50% of all deliveries. Only a small percentage of the deliveries by midwives are white. Another activity of the WPA nurses is the home hygiene classes taught by the colored nurse, Rosa Woodson, to groups which have been formed by the home demonstration agent.

There are 20 white and 49 colored schools in the county. Only Marion County in this State has a large number of colored schools. Two colored schools were visited. Both were large schools, one a brick, and the other a frame building. The sanitary facilities were in good condition and quite adequate. The largest of the colored schools is in Gainesville, and they are connected with the city sewerage system. Six white schools were visited, and all of these schools had deep well water supply and fairly good type bubbling fountains. In most of the schools visited, however, it would not be impossible for a child to get his mouth down directly on the spout. Mr. Zetrouer, Superintendent, informs me that over 50 schools have been given approved sanitation, and all 79 of them have a good water supply.

All of the schools visited and casually inspected from the outside, appear to be well-lighted and the rooms not greatly over-crowded. The county as a whole has no school physician or nurse. This service in Gainesville is taken care of by the city health officer and the city nurse. The county schools, as far as possible, have been inspected by the FERA and WPA nurses and in certain localities examinations and immunizations have been done by the local physician, but this, of course, is not very intensive and is entirely inadequate. The last county-wide work was in 1935 by the District Medical Officer.

ALACHUA COUNTY SCHOOLS (White)

Place	Principal	Address
Gainesville	F. W. Buchholz	Gainesville
Arredonda	Miss Eula McKinney	Arredonda
Fairbanks	Joseph Nash	Hawthorne
LaCrosse	L. C. Pridgen, Jr.	La Crosse
Archer	E. J. Jones	Archer
Micanopy	John W. Dew	Micanopy
Bland	Miss. Dallas Matchett	Bland
Island Grove	Mrs. Ida Pring	Lochloosa
Hawthorne	J. Harry P. Thomas	Hawthorne
Alachua	M. O. Worthington	Alachua
Waldo	L. W. Moon	Waldo
Rose Hill	Mrs. Lee Oliver Thompson	Gainesville
Sante Fe	Nrs. Nellie Gilbert	Santa Fe
Forest Grove	W. Bruce Abernathy	Forest Grove
Bloomsdale	Mrs. Pheriba Sparkman	Hawthorne
Windsor	Miss. Eva Pearl Bryant	Windsor
High Springs	Donald MacQueen	High Springs
Haile	J. W. Massengill	Newberry
Newberry	J. C. Hill	Newberry

PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS:

Archer	Mrs. P. L. Linderman
Alachua	Mrs. B. T. Shaw
Micanopy	Mrs. D. E. Dukes
Melrose (In Putnam County)	
Hawthorne	Mrs. R. R. Morrison
Waldo	Mrs. Lester DeSha
LaCross	Mrs. J. Harris
Gainesville	E. A. Clayton (P.K. Yonge School)
Gainesville	Dr. Donald Morrison (East Side School)
High Springs	Mrs. W. H. McNair
Newberry	

SANITARY SURVEY OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By

Geo. Catlett, State Sanitary Engineer

WATER SUPPLY

All of the eight incorporated towns of the County, except Micanopy, have public water systems. These are derived from deep wells. Regular bacteriological samples obtained from these and examined by the State Board of Health indicate a safe water and no treatment has been applied to any of them. They have the relatively high hardness as found in Florida ground waters. The supply at Waldo is owned by the Florida Power & Light Company; that at Hawthorne, by the Florida Public Service Company; and that at Archer, by the Maddox Iron Works. The others are City owned.

The Gainesville public supply is derived from two wells and a series of springs. There is a 300,000-gallon ground reservoir and an elevated tank of 150,000 gallons capacity. There are 2,434 water connections, all metered. The average consumption is 1,100,000 gallons per day, with a maximum of 1,500,000. In addition to the town, the University of Florida is served by the system. Approximately 90% of the population is served by the public water supply.

The other towns have a similar system with one or two deep wells and elevated storage.

The water used by rural population consists for the most part of shallow wells, a large number of which are dug wells with buckets.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Gainesville is the only community in the county that has a water carriage sewerage system. Disposal from this system is through a modern, well designed Imhoff tank with a designed capacity of approximately two million gallons per 24 hours. The effluent from this tank goes to the low swamp area south of the City known as "the Prairie." Apparently this is taking care of the wastes without offense. The Imhoff tank is well operated and cared for. The only deficiency is inadequate sludge drying bed capacity.

Sewage from the University of Florida is not discharged into the municipal outfall, but is discharged through a separate disposal plant into the creek. This plant consists of an Imhoff tank and trickling filters. It is operated under the supervision of the University.

In the unsewered sections of Gainesville and in the other communities in the County there are some septic tanks with absorption field, but the large portion of the homes are equipped with a privy only. A great number of these are open back and insanitary. In the unsewered areas of Gainesville are numbers of insanitary toilets that need replacement. Under a previous City administration, box and can type privies were installed in place of the standard State Board of Health pit type that is used satisfactorily in other parts of Florida and in other States. Box and can privies can only be dependable with a most efficient system of scavenging, which experience has shown is impossible of attainment in practice. Even if cans are emptied regularly it seems impossible to prevent spilling of particles of excreta on surrounding soil. For this reason, the use of box and can privies is almost obsolete in sanitary practice.

Recently the City has employed a Supervisor of Sanitation and he states that while it seems that little may be done regarding the sanitary facilities now being used, no new dwellings can be built without being connected to the city sewerage system or if this is not available, a septic tank must be installed, and no new facilities may be installed unless approved by him. There is quite a lot of property where the installation of septic tanks is not practicable. Unless these have a fly-proof, sanitary privy they constitute a most serious menace to the health of the community. A WPA project has been authorized for Alachua County which it was hoped could be used for cleaning up Gainesville and other towns. However, this project has never been worked, and a previous City Manager opposed its operation, building the standard privy constructed by the WPA.

In riding around over the more rural parts of the County, one is struck by the number of insanitary privies. Even many of the new privies do not seem to be sanitary, and many of the poorer homes appear to have no privy at all. When we consider the insanitary privy as a factor in the spread of hookworm disease, typhoid and other disease of intestinal origin this is quite a serious condition.

FOOD

The City of Gainesville has a food ordinance, and one man has charge, under the sanitary officer, of food and market inspections. The workers are examined, and while most of the restaurants etc., in Gainesville appear to be fairly clean, in some of them at least there is much room for improvement. The kitchens are poorly kept, dishwashing is poor, and in one the owner and waitresses placed unwashed glasses back on the rack to be used again. Conditions are even worse in the County outside of Gainesville.

MALARIA MOSQUITO CONTROL

Records covering the period 1927 - 1934 show a death rate from malaria in Alachua County of 33.8 per 100,000. When it is considered that every death would represent 300 - 400 cases by conservative estimate, it will be seen that malaria is an important factor in the county. In the Fall of 1936 the authorities of Gainesville and the University asked the State Health Officer for a survey of malaria mosquito breeding in the vicinity of Gainesville. This was made by Doctor T. H. D. Griffitts, Louva G. Lenert, former State Sanitary Engineer, and Doctor W. V. King, Senior Entomologist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, co-operating. Quite definite areas of breeding were found in the vicinity of the University and the City, and recommendations made for drainage measures. A WPA project for Malaria Control Drainage was sponsored by the State Board of Health, but this was not put in operation until October, 1937. Since that time, 50 to 100 men have been employed. The difficulty is that medical data in regards to malaria incidence and location of cases, usually supplied by a local health organization is lacking, and it is difficult to lay out drainage in the county to get the most effective results. The city has two men working under the Sanitary Officer in oiling and destroying local breeding. These could be more effectively employed if basic data were available.

MILK

The City of Gainesville has an ordinance which simulates the U.S.P.H.S. milk ordinance with the teeth removed, which greatly lowers its efficiency. All cows are tested for tuberculosis and Bang's disease. There are no certified dairies. Quite a number of dairies over the county were visited and all of them reveal conditions which seem to me to betray an almost complete lack of supervision. In nearly all instances the attitude of the dairymen was most excellent. Some of the better ones decried the fact that it was sometimes several months between inspections and many of the things they were doing incorrectly was simply because there had been no one to tell them anything better. Dr. Morgan, the new sanitation supervisor, has been able to get around to the 21 dairies supplying Gainesville at least once but the several dairies supplying the other areas of the county are very poorly supervised and conditions are very bad to say the least. With two or three exceptions no milk is retailed in restaurants or other eating establishments in the original containers as it should be. In one place the cream was openly poured off before it was served to the consumer. There are two dairies supplying Gainesville which operate pasteurizing plants for their own supply, and one ice cream company has a makeshift pasteurizer whose efficiency is doubtful. The conditions over the county as a whole are bad and, as stated above, seem to betray an almost utter lack of supervision. There is no information obtainable as to the amount of milk consumed.

DAIRIES WITH GAINESVILLE PERMITS:

Ben Arnow
Barton Dairy
E. N. Beville
R. C. Blake
A. B. Cellon
Miss. Rosa Crown
D. G. Edwards
Florida Agriculture
Experimental Station Dairy
Florida Farm Colony
M. T. Hartman
Ray Haufler (Edgewood Dairy)
T. O. Highsmith
M. A. Litchfield
L. L. Goode (Mansfield Dairy)
R. C. Padgett
Carl E. Perry (Pasteurizing Plant)
L. H. Robbins
Mrs. W. A. Seay
Lance Taylor
University City Dairy
(Pasteurizing Plant)
Whitehurst Dairy

OTHER DAIRIES

Dr. I. C. Dailey	Micanopy
Pierson's Dairy	Alachua
Henn's Dairy	High Springs
Crocker's Dairy	High Springs
West Dairy	High Springs

GARBAGE DISPOSAL

All of the garbage is collected together and carted to a dump about one mile from town near the sewerage disposal plant and burned. There is no incinerator, and one should be installed.

The surveyor had occasion during December, 1937, to spend two days in the county, at which time some of the dairies were again visited. As far as I could see, little or no improvement was noticed in conditions as they were found six months ago.

The handling of food in the downtown Gainesville eating places seems worse, if anything. At the lunch counters of two drug stores it was particularly bad. One of them, possibly serving as many noon lunches as any place in Gainesville, should certainly be closed for the handling of food. The place could be kept clean, but it was dirty; and the food and eating utensils were carelessly handled.

For example: A glass was broken at the fountain and two large pieces of glass were found by a customer in his drink. The attendant fished around in the garbage pail to find the glass, and after only wiping his hands on an already dirty apron, used his hands to scoop up the upper part of the whipped cream and ice cream on the chance that the glass was in one of them.

Milk here, as well as in other drug stores and restaurants, is still being poured from the original container before being served to the customer, rather than allowing the customer to open the individual bottle.

F. V. Chappell, M.D.,
Director, Mobile Health Unit

RECOMMENDATIONS

by

A. B. McCreary, A. B., M. D.
Director, Central Organization
District and County Health Work

This survey simply reveals the usual picture of a community that has failed to recognize its obligations with reference to health, or to take its rightful place in the march of health progress.

The worth of full time health service for all communities is now recognized by all health and medical authorities. The necessity for special training of the personnel in administration and other phases of health work is recognized as a mandatory requisite of an efficiently operated health service.

The old fashioned part-time health set up is as obsolete and as inadequate to offer health protection in the present age as the outmoded volunteer bucket brigade compared with modern fire fighting equipment.

The medical society in a Florida county addressed a communication to the County Commissioners in their county in which they closed with the following summary: "To summarize, we believe that this is the most important position in the county. The proper health officer can accomplish more than any individual doctor. Let us get a man, properly trained, conscientious, and stand by him. If you decide on this, we suggest that you consult with the State Board of Health. If you decide on an improperly trained man, let us quit making a pretense, abolish the job and save the money." This showed that the Medical Society was plainly disgusted with what to them was obviously useless pretense.

It is obvious that the application of the sciences of medicine and engineering to the problems of life and health are of great economic value to any community.

It is difficult to appreciate why any community would subject itself year in and year out to the continued ravages of preventable diseases and the enormous losses of life, health, time and money.

The cooperative health unit is supported by funds from local sources, from the State Board of Health, the United States Public Health Service and the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor. The unit is under the supervision of the State Board of Health and this is simply to assure the use of uniformly accepted measures of public health procedure. Actual control of unit is placed in the hands of the local community, viz; the Medical Society and the County Commissioners with the State Board of Health acting in a purely advisory and supervisory role.

The standardization of health units according to modern methods means recognition of the work throughout the State and Nation just as the efficiency of hospitals are recognized by their approval by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association.

The approval of this council means that the hospital has met the requirements for equipment as well as efficiency and competency of personnel.

The Albemarle County, Charlottesville, University of Virginia Unit with headquarters at Charlottesville, Virginia is one of the highly appraised health units in the United States. This unit is operated on the budget shown by the reproduced letter from Dr. Riggan, Health Commission of Virginia.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Richmond

December 19, 1938

Dr. A. B. McCreary, Director
Bureau of County Health Work
Florida State Board of Health
Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Doctor McCreary:

In reply to your letter of December 10, I am giving you the following information.

Albemarle County has a population of approximately 44,000 including Charlottesville City, which has about 17,000. The University of Virginia, located in Charlottesville, has an enrollment of about 2500. The Joint Health Department was formed by an agreement between these three local contributing agencies. The total budget is \$22,920, of which \$7500 is contributed by the County Board of Supervisors; \$7500 by the City Council of Charlottesville; \$1500 by the University officials; \$5500 through the cooperation of the State Health Department, and \$920 by other local agencies. These funds are handled locally by the City Auditor.

The personnel consists of one health officer, two sanitation officers, four nurses, and one clerk. The nurses are assigned to about equal districts of the county and city. One sanitation officer does the dairy and food inspections, and the other is on general sanitation. The health officer devotes part of his time to the duties of Assistant Associate Professor of Public Health in the University School of Medicine.

The local Board of Health consists of one member from each of the local contributing agencies. At present they are the County Manager, the City Manager, and the Professor of Public Health from the University. The health office is secretary of the local Board of Health.

If there is any further information you desire, please let me know.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED I. C. RIGGIN
State Health Commissioner

FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUDGET FOR STATE OR LOCAL HEALTH PROJECT

Date this Budget _____

STATE FLORIDA (Division) ALACHUA COUNTY

PERIOD COVERED BY BUDGET July 1st, 1937 - June 30th, 1938

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Item No.	Description	Allotments 12 months	State	County	U.S.P.H.S.	Other Agencies
1	Health Officer	Salary & Travel	4,200			4,200
2	Sanitation Officer	" "	1,800			1,800
3	Public Health Nurse	" "	1,800			1,800
4	Public Health Nurse	" "	1,800			Gainesville 1,800
5	Public Health Nurse	" "	1,800			School Board 1,200
6	Public Health Nurse	" "	1,800			" " 1,800
7	Stenographer-clerk	" "	1,200			Gainesville 1,200
8	Medical and Dental Assistance and supplies	" "	4,200			Children's Bureau 4,200
9	Contingent		100			Gainesville 1,300

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

CITY of Gainesville	\$4,300
United States Public Health Service	4,200
Alachua County	4,500
School Board	5,000
Children's Bureau	4,200
TOTAL	\$ 20,000

It is agreed by all contracting parties that no personnel will be employed that does not meet with the minimal requirements laid down by the United States Public Health Service and further, that no personnel will be employed which does not meet with the approval of the Alachua County Medical Society and the State Board of Health and, furthermore, no program will be inaugurated which does not meet with the approval of the Alachua County Medical Society and the State Board of Health.

TOTALS \$20,000.00 \$4,300.00 \$4,200.00 \$11,500.00

SIGNED
FOR COUNTY

SIGNED FOR UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

SIGNED
FOR STATE
DATE SIGNED _____

The above minimal budget was suggested as an initial step in Alachua County. This county should have two sanitation officers, one to handle meat and milk and the other to do general sanitation work. Although only one sanitation officer is included in this budget we feel that another can be added and still keep the budget within \$20,000.

This survey reveals the glaring need of an approved health service and the first recommendation is the establishment of a cooperative health unit, as nothing can or will be done about existing conditions without an authorized and qualified full time agency to further their solution.

Vital Statistics should come through the Health Unit and be checked and investigated. This would eliminate the statement that registrations are from 75% to 95% effective. Read carefully the paragraph on Vital Statistics. Vital Statistics is the measuring rod or speedometer of public health progress.

MATERNAL AND INFANT HYGIENE

The fact that fully half of the deliveries for the past four years have been attended by midwives, when coupled with the maternal death rate and the number of stillbirths, is highly indicative of the necessity for supervision by an active health department. There should be firm and positive control of the activities of midwives. They should report the acceptance of expectant mothers as patients at least five days prior to delivery, and again to report immediately upon delivery to the health department so that the health department can exercise the necessary supervision. Naturally this statement is based upon the assumption that an adequate health service is to be inaugurated in Alachua County.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

The absence of records of morbidity as well as records of epidemiological investigations are simply another indication of the crying need for full time health service.

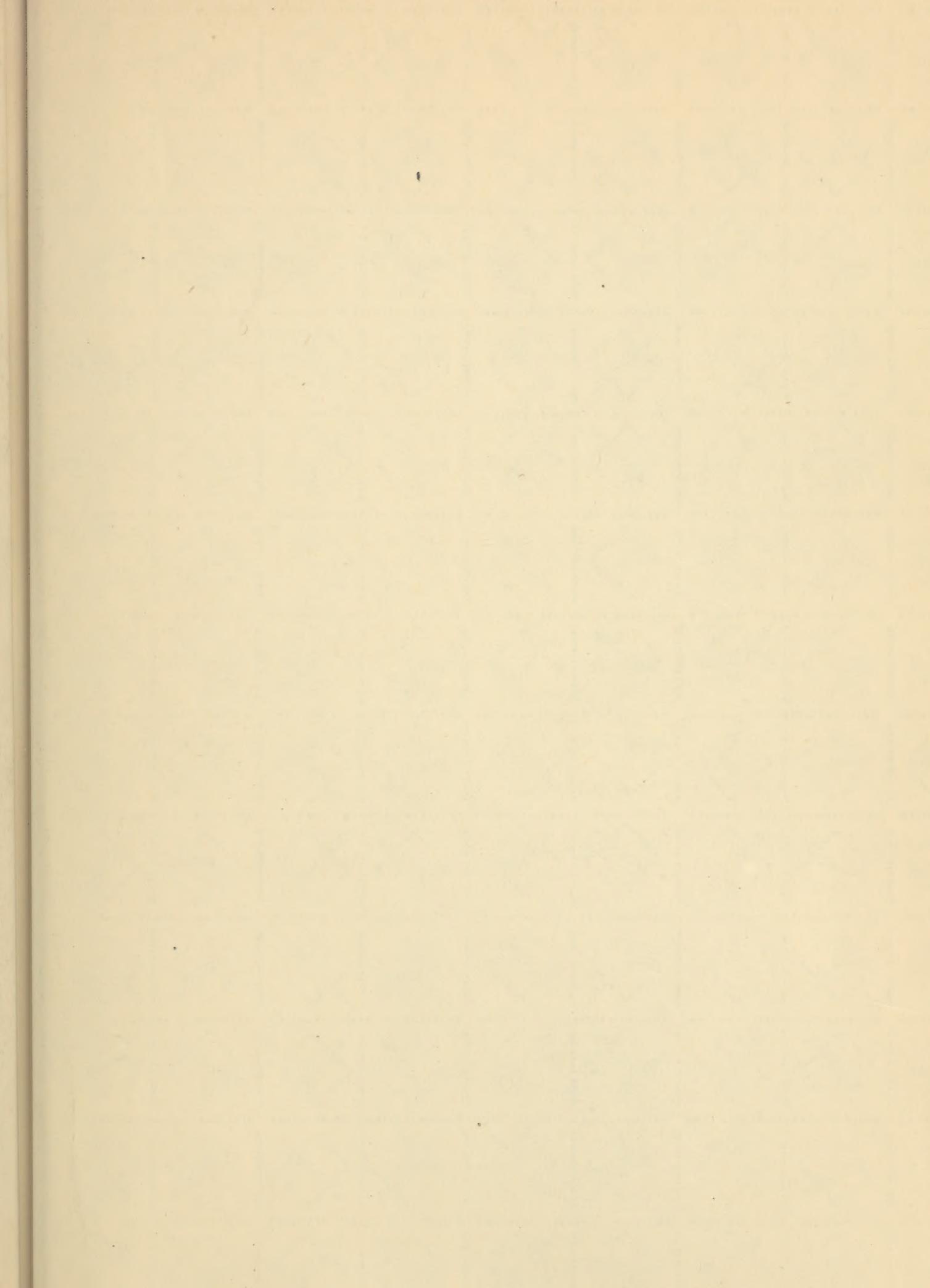
	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Typhoid Reported	0	0	1	0	0	4	0
Deaths	5	1	1	2	0	1	1

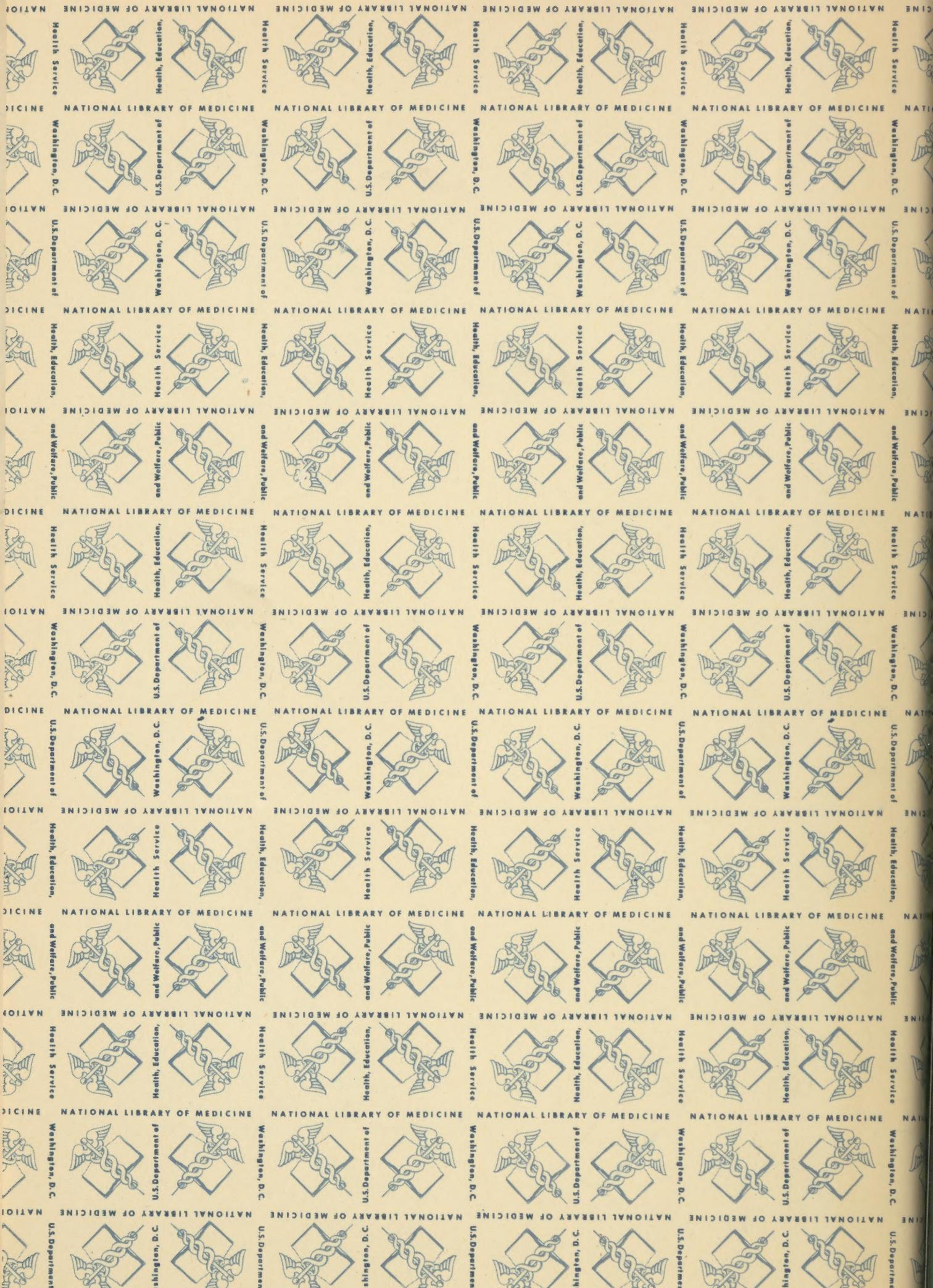
Typhoid due to the fact that it is a long lingering illness is usually reported better than most communicable diseases yet this table proves that over the seven years period only five cases were reported to the Bureau of Epidemiology of the State Board of Health, while for the same period eleven deaths were reported. Of course it is obvious that the cases were not reported, were not investigated, and nothing was done to control the spread of the disease. It is estimated that there are from seven to ten cases for every death which would mean that for this same period there were more than seventy-five typhoid patients. Is it economy for a community to ignore such conditions? During this same period 165 persons died from tuberculosis while only 29 cases were reported. It is estimated that there are ten cases of tuberculosis for every death which would mean that there were 1650 cases of tuberculosis in this community while only 165 cases were recognized. The utter impossibility of control work under such conditions is obvious. 23 children had diphtheria during this period and eight died. Eight absolutely unnecessary deaths and 23 cases of preventable disease.

The organization of an adequate health set-up to study and apply methods of control is obvious. What would such an organization have been worth to the parents of the eight children, the relatives of the eleven typhoid victims, or the 165 who were silenced by the great white plague.

SANITATION

Neglect has been as marked in this field as it has been in the others. When one sees the various channels of infection possible through badly sanitized environment, the marvel is not that the disease rate is high, but that it is not even higher. The handling of food and milk is described in the survey. The United States Public Health Service Milk Ordinance sometimes referred to as the Standard Milk Ordinance when properly enforced assures a safe milk supply. Medical and engineering sciences have given us the means of controlling the conditions under which we live. Public Health is a purchasable product and any community can within certain limitations establish its own disease and death rate.





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